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NEWS RELEASE

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Education Department Releases 2003 State, District, School Report Cards

The R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) has published *Information Works! 2003*, the collection of “report cards” for each public school and school district in the state, as well as the State Report Card containing statewide data and rankings of the state’s schools and districts.

“Information is a cornerstone of our accountability system,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon release of the reports. “The information contained in these reports will help all of us – educators, business leaders, community members, and especially parents – make intelligent, informed decisions about our schools and about the education of our children.”

The report cards, based on data from the 2001-02 school year, include assessment data and school-performance categories, demographic information, data on attendance and dropout rates, information on school climate and instructional practices, tables on suspensions broken down by category, and financial data on school spending.

In addition, the State Report Card contains tables that rank schools based on their school-performance categories and on what’s known as “value added,” which shows how well students in each school perform in comparison with similar students statewide.

These reports, along with reports from the previous five years, are available on line at the Information Works! Web site:

www.infoworks.ride.uri.edu

In addition, the State Report Card will be published later this month in booklet form. The school and district report cards have been distributed to families in each school community.

Information Works! has been produced for the past six years through a partnership between RIDE and the National Center on Public Education and Social Policy, at the University of Rhode Island. This year’s reports contain several new features. One is the section on “learning-support indicators,” which evaluate schools based on six factors: attendance rate, graduation rate, instructional practices, parental involvement, school climate, and health education. Another new feature in the State Report Card is a three-page section on students with disabilities.

This year, for the first time, the school and district reports are published on line only. Individual school and district reports are available for distribution by school districts.

A Spanish-language version of the State Report will be available later this summer.